



## MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Land Use & Environmental Services Agency

### Code Enforcement

#### Q&A Consistency Meeting Agenda for Mechanical, August 2017

---

1. **Question:** Can 4 inch B vent be used for dryer vent?

**Answer:** No, it would not meet the required gauge and the joints would not run in the direction of air flow.

2. **Question:** How much are you allowed to compress insulation on ducts?

**Answer:** Section 604.7 assumes a 25% compression, this is accepted as an industry standard. The manufacturer could provide a different compression rate to meet the required R-value.

3. **Question:** If a unit is changed out in a garage, does the flex need to be replaced with 26 GA metal duct, if it isn't touched?

**Answer:** Only if the flex is being replaced. If it was legally installed with the original installation and is not being altered, there would be no requirement to replace it.

4. **Question:** I have a laundry room that is bigger than a closet, am I still required to provide make up air?

**Answer:** It will depend on the laundry room size. If it meets the requirements of R304.3 for minimum habitable room dimensions, then make up air would not be required. If the room does not meet the minimum dimensions, then it would be required per 504.5 NCMC.

R304.3 Minimum dimensions. Habitable rooms shall not be less than 7 feet in any horizontal dimension.

504.5 Makeup air. Where a closet is designed for the installation of a clothes dryer, an opening having an area of not less than 100 square inches (0.0645 m<sup>2</sup>) shall be provided in the closet enclosure or makeup air shall be provided by other approved means.

5. **Question:** When you have a shaft that complies with 607.5.5 #2. The sub ducts have to extend into the shaft a minimum of 22 inches and be made out of 26 gage. The last line of the section states, "the



## MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Land Use & Environmental Services Agency

### Code Enforcement

Q&A Consistency Meeting Agenda for Mechanical, August 2017

---

exhaust fan is powered continuously in accordance with the provisions of Section 909.11 of the International Building Code, and maintains airflow upward to the outdoors." Section 909.11 requires an approved standby power source. Does this mean they must install a generator? Can they use batteries?

**Answer:** Section 909.11 of the Building Code requires an approved standby power source. This is typically a generator, but if there is no other requirement of a standby power source other than the fan for the shaft, a battery system may be used. The battery will need to have the capacity to run the fan at full volume for no less than 90 minutes.